

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01678 250642Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 HA-05 /079 W  
-----128630 250857Z /10

R 241513Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7368  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
USINT BAGHDAD

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 1678

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINR, PINS, SY  
SUBJECT: WAVE OF ARRESTS FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION OF ASSAD'S COUSIN

1. GHASSAN DROUBI, SYRIAN BUSINESSMAN WITH GOOD CONTACTS  
IN SARG, TOLD DCM THAT GENERAL INTELLIGENCE (G-I) HAS  
ARRESTED 200 INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MUSLIM BROTHER-  
HOOD IN CONNECTION WITH ASSASSINATION MARCH 18 OF ALAWITE  
RELATIVE OF PRESIDENT AL-ASSAD IBRAHIM NAAME. ACCORDING  
TO GI RECKONING NAAME WAS THE 13TH ALAWITE VICTIM OF  
UNKNOWN ASSASSINS. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER BUSINESSMAN, MORE ARRESTS  
ARE EXPECTED AS GI DIRECTOR ALI MADANI PURSUES HIS INVESTIGATION IN  
HAMA, A BROTHERHOOD CENTER. MADANI, HIMSELF FROM HAMA, JUST  
RETURNED FROM INDIA WHERE HE WAS DIRECTING SECURITY  
COVERAGE FOR NOW POSTPONED PRESIDENTIAL VISIT.

2. IT IS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR SYRIAN SECURITY  
AUTHORITIES TO CAST A WIDE NET AFTER ASSASSINATIONS AND  
ARREST HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE FOR INTERROGATION. USUALLY,  
THE VAST MAJORITY IS RELEASED WITHIN HOURS, OTHERS ARE  
KEPT LONGER AND ARE GRADUALLY WINNOWNED OUT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT  
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IN THIS CASE THE ALAWITE COMMUNITY IS UP IN ARMS ABOUT  
THE ASSASSINATIONS, IS CONVINCED THE BROTHERHOOD IS  
RESPONSIBLE AND IS CALLING FOR RETRIBUTION.  
SECURITY AROUND KEY POINTS IN THE CITY IS TIGHTER WITH  
DOUBLE TO TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF GUARDS IN THE CRITICAL ABU  
RAMANIEH AREA AROUND THE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE AND KEY  
INTELLIGENCE AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS' HOUSES. ALAWITES

WE KNOW ARE FOR THE FIRST TIME CARRYING PERSONAL WEAPONS  
AND BEING ASSIGNED BODYGUARDS.

3. PRESIDENT ASSAD HAS SIGNED HIS INTENTION TO LEAD  
THE COUNTRY AWAY FROM REPRESSION AND ARBITRARY ARREST,  
BUT HE WILL FIND LITTLE SUPPORT FOR RELAXING MARSHAL  
LAW AND PAST SECURITY EXCESSES WHEN HE CAN'T EVEN PROTECT  
HIS OWN RELATIVES.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DAMASC01678  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780131-1097  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 71  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 06f737be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3214014  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WAVE OF ARRESTS FOLLOWING ASSASINATION OF ASSAD'S COUSIN  
**TAGS:** PINR, PINS, SY, (NAAME, IBRAHIM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/06f737be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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